

Dialog between the OPCAT NPM and the authorities and institutions covered by OPCAT

2 December 2014

Commissioner for Fundamental Rights Dr. László Székely invited the heads and representatives of places of detention falling under the effect of OPCAT for a briefing on the tasks of the OPCAT National Preventive Mechanism for December 2, 2014.

During the meeting, the Commissioner underlined that cooperation between the Ombudsman and authorities, churches and foundations is the cornerstone of preventing torture and other forms of mistreatment. Dr. Katalin Haraszti, Deputy Head of the OPCAT NPM Department, gave an overview of the legal background of the National Preventive Mechanism and the visits by the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture. She pointed out the obligations of the operators of places of detention deriving from OPCAT. Dr. Gergely Fliegauf, Head of the OPCAT NPM Department, spoke about the tasks that had been completed by the Office in the interests of the January 1, 2015, launch of the National Preventive Mechanism, and outlined the examination methodology to be applied in the course of inspections. He drew the participants' attention to the fact that preventing torture should not mean putting pressure on the organizations concerned, but rather jointly setting objectives that are achievable. At the same time, he pointed out that any occurrence of torture and ill-treatment in a place of detention is either the derivative of a legal loophole, or the non-implementation of prevailing legal regulations.

Representatives of various authorities, foundations and churches also addressed the meeting, made recommendations and confirmed their readiness to fully cooperate with the Ombudsman.

